

**REMARKS/ARGUMENT**

Withdrawal of the previous rejection is acknowledged. Claims 11 and 14-15 remain in the application and apparently stand rejected as obvious in view of four prior art references, even though only three are recited at the top of page 9 of the Office Action. The new rejections are respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zeng in view of Langlotz, the examiner reasoning that, since Langlotz discloses coupling a protein to an epoxy-activated membrane, it would have been obvious to bind "other proteins, including PAB." Office Action, page 5, lines 3-4 and 9-12. Thus, it is clear that a key premise of the rejection is the examiner's assumption that PAB is a protein. But this assumption of the examiner is mistaken inasmuch as PAB is not a protein, but rather a fairly low molecular weight compound with a molecular weight of 135 Daltons. See the Chemical Book reference previously cited by the examiner (copy enclosed).

Claims 1 and 10 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hermanson in view of Langlotz, Preece and Zeng. Office Action, page 5, penultimate paragraph. As stated, this rejection is not understood since claims 1 and 10 are not under consideration, having been cancelled. Should the examiner maintain this rejection, an explanation would be appreciated. If the examiner intended this rejection to be applied to claims 14 and 15, then the rejection is traversed for the following reasons.

Initially, it is noted that the primary reference Hermanson actually teaches away from the claimed invention in that it is stated at pages 167-168 that the best way to

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immobilize PAB is by using a "spacer arm" to extend PAB "some distance from the matrix," as taught by the previously cited and relied upon Grano et al reference. See Grano et al at pages 298 and 289, Fig. 1. The examiner further reasons that Langlotz discloses coupling a protein to an epoxy-activated membrane. But Langlotz does not disclose coupling a protease inhibitor to an epoxy-activated membrane, and, as pointed out above, PAB is not a protein.

For the reasons stated, early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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